



Beaver Island  
Michigan

# Supervisor's Lens

Notes to Township Board Members from Supervisor Kathleen McNamara

MARCH 22, 2018

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

**SJTC** = St James  
Township  
Governmental  
Center

**SJTH** = St James  
Township Hall



Saturday 3/24  
11:00AM @ SJTH  
Budget Hearing and  
Annual Meeting and  
Special Meeting

Monday 3/26  
10:00AM @ SJTC  
Finance Committee  
Meeting



## **GOOD NEWS!! The 5-year recreation plan for St. James Township has been formally approved!**

### **Darrell Butler Praise**

I am attaching a letter from the Township Airport Manager and Chair of the BI Airport Commission praising township maintenance man Darrell Butler for his skill and dedication. I will read the letter at our next board meeting. Also, Performance Engineer's Aaron Nordman was extremely impressed with Darrell's knowledge of the sewer system and his record keeping; overall they saw that the sewer is in good shape, much thanks to Darrell's ongoing attention.

### **Budget Hearing /Annual Meeting / Special Meeting**

Attached is an agenda for these three meeting. Diane and Jeff will be calling in.

Budget Hearing: The budget documents you received earlier this month, with one exception are recommended for adoption. I will update the General Fund final amended budget for the current year to include and additional \$8,700.00 on the revenue side.

Annual Meeting and Special Meeting: I am attaching a single page with potential resolutions, based upon what was adopted last year. These resolutions shall be discussed and any board member may make changes to them. Please note that there are two possible resolutions for approval of the Recreation Passport Grant Program (see notes below) depending upon whether or not the board wants to commit \$40,000.00 or \$50,000.00 as a match.

### **Recreation Passport Grant Progress**

Much progress is being made and the hope is to submit the grant next Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>; absolute deadline is midnight on April 1, 2018. Patrick and I hope to finalize the narrative sections of the grant tomorrow afternoon. I have posted the proposed campground design documents and cost estimates on the township website and these were shared at the community input session. I have received at least six letters of support for the grant and I have a Memorandum of Understanding with the BI Archipelago Trails Association reflecting their intent to help in building trails and primitive campsites on the property.

As we were looking at the estimates and determining what we could accomplish with a given amount of funds, we realized that to request the full amount of \$150,000.00 the township match must be \$50,000.00 for a total project amount of \$200,000.00. The board had previously discussed a match of \$40,000.00; according to the Grant Manager at the state "If you have \$40,000 as match and you want to have a minimum 25% match, to figure out the total project cost:  $40000/0.25 = \$160,000.$ " I recommend that we approve a \$50,000.00 match, but will have a resolution available for both, so the board can decide on Saturday.

### **Township Consolidation**

I want to make you aware of a recent conversation with our attorney. I emailed the following questions to attorneys Bryan Graham and Peter Wendling: "As the discussion about township consolidation continues, I have been asked what the likely cost is of legal fees for making the transition from two to one township. I'm sure it would be hard to nail down concisely, but is there a likely range? Also, as our attorneys, do you see any real big problems that the consolidation might cause for our township? I would like to have a conversation with one of you about this."

Attorney Bryan Graham and I had a phone conversation on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Here are my notes:

- Brian indicated that biggest and most important first thing would be to make sure that the Zoning Ordinance is solid as that is the most likely first place a township would have an issue. Since we already have joint Zoning Ordinance and common Master Plan, this would be simpler to revise than two completely different ordinances. Creating a new Planning Commission would be top priority, he thought.
- Ordinances of both townships would have to be reviewed; he stated that current ordinances would still apply to the geographic areas they cover until revised ordinances are adopted. He thought that regardless of whether the townships merge, this might be a good time to review all ordinances and bring them up to date.
- He indicated that the main reason for legal services is for zoning and ordinance, and bringing authorities, commissions and committees into legal compliance.
- Brian's guess is this may cost approximately \$5,000 / rate is \$160.00 per billable hour which would be approximately 31 hours. It could amount to more, but he couldn't think of any reason it would go above \$20,000.00 which would be 125 hours of legal work.

Public Forum: Ron Wojan approached me to let me know that PABI is planning a public information forum in April (tentatively the 16<sup>th</sup>). I shared with him a contact at the League of Women Voters in Traverse City – this group has much experience with hosting educational forums on political issues and is willing to provide guidance to any community group hosting a forum on township consolidation.

**JA Woollam Foundation Proposal**

*I am working on a timeline and contact list for planning for this project. I will get this to you as soon as I have it a bit more complete; I've been busy with the grant this week. There is much to be done. I plan to have the board discuss the timeline and process at the April 4<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting. In the meantime, I will update the Planning Commission at their April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and get input on how the proposal meshes with the Master Plan. Travis and I expect to meet via conference call with Mr. Woollam and his project manager sometime in the next two weeks.*

**Municipal Dock Season Slip Allocation**

*Two boaters are interested in a seasonal slip. Lottery for season slip will be held at noon on Friday, March 23, 2018 at the Governmental Center 37830 King's Highway. One die (dice) will be rolled until the number 1 or 2 comes up which will determine who receives the season boat slip per numbers above. Payment for seasonal slips must be made by June 1, 2018. Mike Collins and I will do the roll and each boater has been informed of the process.*

**2018 MTA Annual Conference & Expo**

*Please check out this link: [MTA Annual Conference](#). This year's conference is conveniently located in Traverse City and runs from April 23 – April 26.*